

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 5, wherein said verification means of each of the office automation devices comprises:

user information storage means for storing user information identifying at least one user permitted to operate the office automation device,

user information input means for inputting identification information identifying a user operating the office automation device, and

user verification means for verifying a user operating the office automation device in accordance with identification information input via the user information input means and user information stored in the user information storage means,

the information acquisition means of each of the office automation devices comprising:

counting means for counting an amount of usage of the office automation device by the verified user, and

information creation means for creating device usage information, the device usage information comprising the amount of usage of the office automation device counted by the counting means and information for identifying the verified user.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 5, wherein the management server comprises:

user usage amount acquisition means for acquiring a usage amount record of an arbitrary office automation device used by an arbitrary user based upon device usage information collected by the information collection means,

comparison means for comparing the usage amount record acquired by the user usage amount acquisition means and a reference value and producing a comparison result, and

output means for sending, via the network, a message corresponding to the comparison result and generated by the comparison means to an office automation device operated by a targeted user and outputting the message to a display section of the office automation device.

5. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A system wherein the office automation device comprises system of claim 3, in which a plurality of office automation devices arranged in a work place and a management server managing each of the office automation devices are connected via a network, wherein each of the office automation devices comprises:

a replaceable, expendable component,

verification means for verifying a user attempting to operate each of the office automation devices and belonging to a predetermined section of the work place,

information acquisition means for acquiring device usage information including information of a user verified by the verification means and a value indicating an amount of usage of the office automation device by the verified user,

information storage means for sequentially storing the device usage information acquired by the information acquisition means,

wherein the management server comprises:

information collection means for collecting, via a network, the device usage information stored in the information storage means of each of the office automation devices, and

amount totalizing means for totalizing a usage amount record of the office automation devices, the usage amount record being associated with each user or a section in a company, based on the usage information collected by the information collection means,[[.]]

device usage amount acquisition means for acquiring a usage amount record of the office automation device subsequent to replacement of the replaceable, expendable component in the office automation device, based upon device usage information collected by the information collection means,

comparison means for comparing the usage amount record acquired by the user usage amount acquisition means and a reference value and producing a comparison result, and

output means for sending, via the network, a message prompting the replacement of the replaceable, expendable component to the office automation device operated by a targeted user, and outputting the message to a display section of the office automation device, in a case where the usage amount exceeds the reference value in the comparison result of the comparison means.

6. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 5, wherein the user is associated with a section, and wherein the management server comprises:

section usage amount acquisition means for acquiring a totalized usage amount record indicating a usage amount of the office automation device totalized for the section associated with the user, based upon device usage information collected by the information collection means,

comparison means for comparing the totalized usage amount record acquired by the section usage amount acquisition means and a reference value and producing a comparison result, and

output means for sending, via the network, a message corresponding to the comparison result generated by the comparison means to an office automation device operated by a user of a targeted section and outputting the message to a display section of the office automation device.

7-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A system according to claim 3, in which a plurality of office automation devices arranged in a work place and a management server managing each of the office automation devices are connected via a network, wherein each of the office automation devices comprises:

a replaceable, expendable component,

verification means for verifying a user attempting to operate each of the office automation devices and belonging to a predetermined section of the work place,

information acquisition means for acquiring device usage information including information of a user verified by the verification means and a value indicating an amount of usage of the office automation device by the verified user,

information storage means for sequentially storing the device usage information acquired by the information acquisition means,

wherein the management server comprises:

information collection means for collecting, via a network, the device usage information stored in the information storage means of each of the office automation devices,

amount totalizing means for totalizing a usage amount record of the office automation devices, the usage amount record being associated with each user or a section in a company, based on the usage information collected by the information collection means,

device usage amount acquisition means for acquiring a usage amount record of the office automation device subsequent to replacement of the replaceable, expendable component in the office automation device, based upon device usage information collected by the information collection means,

device usage amount acquisition means for acquiring an amount of usage of each of the office automation devices within a past fixed time period,[[;]]

comparison means for comparing the usage amount record acquired by the user usage amount acquisition means and a reference value and producing a comparison result,

output means for sending, via the network, a message prompting the replacement of the replaceable, expendable component to the office automation device operated by a targeted user, outputting the message to a display section of the office automation device, in a case where the usage amount exceeds the reference value in the comparison result of the comparison means, and

determination means for comparing the amount of usage acquired by the device usage amount acquisition means, with a reference value, and determining an office automation device which is less frequently used and positioned improperly.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein said verification means of each of the office automation devices comprises:

user information storage means for storing user information identifying at least one user permitted to operate the office automation device,

user information input means for inputting identification information identifying a user operating the office automation device, and

user verification means for verifying a user operating the office automation device in accordance with identification information input via the user information input means and user information stored in the user information storage means,

the information acquisition means of each of the office automation devices comprising:

counting means for counting an amount of usage of the office automation device by the verified user, and

information creation means for creating device usage information, the device usage information comprising the amount of usage of the office automation device counted by the counting means and information for identifying the verified user.

24. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the management server comprises:

user usage amount acquisition means for acquiring a usage amount record of an arbitrary office automation device used by an arbitrary user based upon device usage information collected by the information collection means,

comparison means for comparing the usage amount record acquired by the user usage amount acquisition means and a reference value and producing a comparison result, and

output means for sending, via the network, a message corresponding to the comparison result and generated by the comparison means to an office automation device operated by a targeted user and outputting the message to a display section of the office automation device.

25. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the user is associated with a section, and wherein the management server comprises:

section usage amount acquisition means for acquiring a totalized usage amount record indicating a usage amount of the office automation device totalized for the section associated with the user, based upon device usage information collected by the information collection means,

comparison means for comparing the totalized usage amount record acquired by the section usage amount acquisition means and a reference value and producing a comparison result, and

output means for sending, via the network, a message corresponding to the comparison result generated by the comparison means to an office automation device operated by a user of a targeted section and outputting the message to a display section of the office automation device.